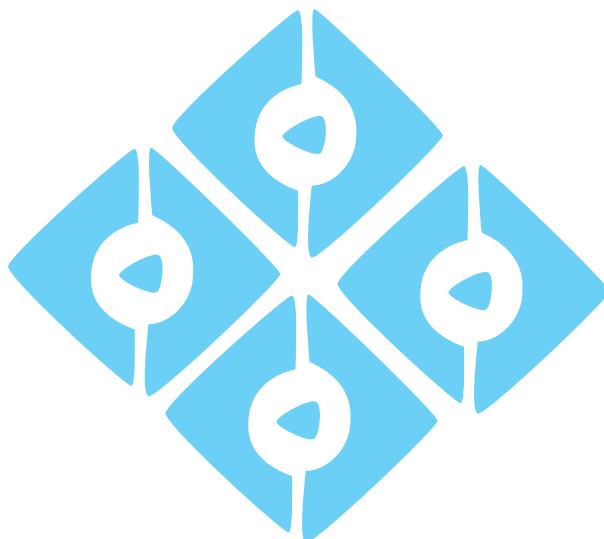


**AN ASSESSMENT OF THE STATE OF
THE USAID/PVO PARTNERSHIP**

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
VOLUNTARY FOREIGN AID**



JUNE 1997

The Assessment of the State of the USAID/PVO Partnership was produced by a study team that included three independent consultants: Steve Mintz (chief investigator), Lou Stamberg, and Noreen O'Meara; and three USAID direct hire staff from the Bureau for Humanitarian Response: John Grant, Director of the Office of Private and Voluntary Cooperation; Michael Korin, Deputy Director of the Office of Program, Planning and Evaluation; and Elise Storck, Director of the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid in the Office of Private and Voluntary Cooperation. Lynne Cripe, an American Association for the Advancement of Science Fellow in PVC, wrote the Annotated Bibliography. The Assessment was edited by Elise Storck and designed by Pat Bartlett, Bartlett Communications.

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FOREWORD

This assessment, commissioned by the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid, is the culminating output of the current Committee, whose term expires in June 1997. It is our hope that the assessment will serve the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development and his staff, as well as the private and voluntary organization (PVO) community, for years to come.

The mandate of the Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid is to provide well informed and constructive advice to USAID's Administrator on the range of issues and challenges that affect the relationship between the official foreign assistance program and the work of the private voluntary community. It is a long-standing partnership relationship filled with numerous success stories and, as this assessment documents, inevitable tensions given the generic differences between the two entities. We are proud to conclude, however, that the partnership is closer than ever before, a tribute to this Administrator of USAID, J. Brian Atwood, and his fine staff.

This assessment, and indeed the three-year tenure of this Advisory Committee, is the work of many; but particular tribute must be paid to the Director of the Advisory Committee's Secretariat, Elise Storck, whose unusual combination of management skills, high standards, and total commitment to both USAID and to the Agency's relationship with PVOs have been extraordinary assets to this Committee. We owe her every debt of gratitude. Also, essential to the success of this assessment and to the Committee's work have been Noreen O Meara, Lisa J. Douglas, Susan Saragi, and the director of USAID's Office of Private and Voluntary Cooperation, John Grant. Others in USAID who played a key role in this Advisory Committee's work, in addition to Administrator Brian Atwood, have been USAID officials Jill Buckley, Kelly Kammerer, Len Rogers, Gary Kinney, Adele Liskov, Diana Esposito, Margaret Lycette, Diane LaVoy, Cathryn Thorup, and Gary Hansen. We are grateful to all.

More specific to the assessment itself, consultants Steve Mintz and Lou Stamberg performed their research and writing responsibilities with great distinction. The steering committee for the assessment included USAID officials Kelly Kammerer, Walter Bollinger, Marcus Stevenson, John Grant, Jill Buckley, and Patricia Jordan. We owe our thanks to each of them.

Finally, the twenty-three people who have served on this Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid have been deeply privileged to work with the Agency for International Development in our mutual effort to promote sustainable development and to simultaneously express American generosity and values in our collaborative efforts. We will be proud if this assessment and our entire three-year term provide further momentum to strengthening the USAID-PVO partnership and its contribution to sustainable development around the world.

Thomas H. Fox
ACVFA Chair